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Reflections on the Economics Program

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Reflections on the Economics Program



Reflections on the Economics Program



Dr. Margaret L. Chapman, Acting Chair

The Program and Faculty:

Since Michael Seeborg is on sabbatical this spring, I have the honor of sharing with you the latest news about the Economics program. The biggest piece of news, especially for alumni, is that *Statistics for Business and Economics* will become Econ 227 beginning in the fall. To help us out with our introductory course and to staff the added statistics courses, we will be adding a fifth, visiting faculty position for next year. We're looking forward to all of the statistics sections following Bob Leekley's innovative computer-integrated approach to teaching statistics.

Plans are continuing for renovation of the old Sherff Hall into the Center for the Liberal Arts, CLA, a building combining faculty offices and classrooms. Hopefully, by August, 1997, the Economics Department -- along with Business, Philosophy, Religion, Education, Political Science, Sociology, and History -- will be moving into its new quarters. Students will have to get used to taking makeup exams in regular classrooms after all those tests at the desk on the slope outside the men's room at Park Place.

You will be happy to learn that the new CLA building plans include plenty of space for student organizations, separate file and desk space for *The Park Place Economist*, and even a separate computer room and data library for Economics students to work on their projects.

The Economics Majors:

This year we are graduating thirty students, the largest group in our department's history. We have a very talented group of individuals again this year. Gwen Alexander has decided to join the PhD program at the University of Maryland. Angela Smith has been accepted with a full fellowship at Cornell University. Bill Takahashi is deciding between the law school programs at Emory University, the University of Dayton, and Notre Dame. And David Rudd will be doing masters work in International Affairs at Georgetown.

Five seniors have continued their work toward research honors this year: Gwen Alexander, Angela Smith, David Rudd, Bill Takahashi, and Susan Brown. To facilitate their progress toward research honors we have added *Advanced Research Seminar*, which is being led this year by Pam Lowry.

In addition to their studies, members of this year's senior class have put in many hours contributing to the university and to the department. David Rudd has gained the reputation of Guru of Economics among the underclass students for his two years' service as tutor. Angela Smith, along with David, and Gwen Alexander, staffed the student research lab and also provided valuable help to the faculty as student assistants.

Other department activities have continued to thrive this year under the leadership of the senior class. *The Park Place Economist* is celebrating its fourth year of publication under the direction of Ashley Wickrema, and the Economics Society is completing another activity-filled year, headed by President Faizal Chaudhury. Speakers have included Rob Fazzini of Busey Bank, David Vance of Caterpillar, Bob Aaron of Illinois Wesleyan, Stan Ommen of First of America Bank, and Gary Klopfenstein of G K Capital Management Inc. And in April, the Economics Society focused on the Health Care Crisis, sponsoring talks by Professor Fred Gottheil from the University of Illinois and by a representative from OSF Medical Group.

Finally, Omicron Delta Epsilon, the Economics honorary, initiated seventeen students at its April banquet, yet another mark of the continuing high quality of Economics majors here at Illinois Wesleyan.

On behalf of all the faculty in the department, we wish you well in your pursuit of higher endeavors, Seniors. And for the rest of you, we look forward to working with you next year.